

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on Friday, 18 November 1994, 10:00 a.m., SGW Campus, Room H-771.

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Mr. B. Counihan; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. N. Torbit; Mr. R. Côté; Ms. D. Cooper; Ms. C. Fortier; Dr. G. Alfred; Ms. L. Grimes; Mr. D. Leib; Ms. J. Murray; Mr. D. Ellison; Mr. S. Zacharias; Mr. M. Cambridge; Ms. A. Robinson; Dr. R. Bonin; Ms. K. Hedrich; Ms. L. Lipscombe; Mr. C. Macdonald; Ms. J. Chegrinec (secretary).

Absent with regrets: Mr. H. Zarins; Mr. R. King; Mr. D. Bobker; Dr. I.M. Barlow; Mr. B. Smart.

Guests: Ms. A. Flynn; Ms. S. Livingston, representing the Department of Recreation & Athletics.

1. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Leib asked that the issues of advising and bursaries be added to the agenda. The Chair indicated that these issues should be raised under the report from the Planning & Resources Committee. On a motion by Ms. Torbit, seconded by Mr. Côté, the agenda was approved.
2. Remarks from the Chair: There were no remarks from the Chair.
3. Approval of the minutes from the 14 October meeting: Ms. Torbit asked that the following corrections and clarifications be made to the minutes: Pg. 7 - under Directors' Reports - Health Notes - the HS newsletter as opposed to Health Notices. Pg. 8 should be Server intervention as opposed to seven. Ms. Torbit also asked that the situation regarding Health Services and stress be clarified. The discussion on Industrial Engineering students and the stress they were experiencing - Ms. Torbit understood the question to be about stress workshops which Health Services does not presently offer. The "stress management not being offered", which was written in the minutes, refers, she believes, to the Peer Health Educators who do not address stress.

Stress is addressed on a one-to-one basis in the service itself both from an educational (preventive) angle as well as providing services to help the students deal with stresses in their lives.

Mr. Côté corrected the statement credited to him by saying that he could not ascertain the NAFTA connection within the Axworthy document.

Ms. Grimes asked that a note be taken that Mr. Ellison's name has been misspelled.

On a motion by Ms. Fortier, seconded by Mr. Counihan, the minutes, as amended, were approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes: a) **Student Services Review Process Update** - Dr. Boisvert, who is also the Chair of the Student Services Review, provided the update. To date the Committee has met twice. Although only one undergraduate student has been appointed, the process is proceeding. Mr. Zarins and Mr. Counihan have met with the Committee and the remaining Directors are scheduled to address the review within the coming weeks. The Chair expressed the hope that the remaining undergraduate students could be appointed and integrated into the process as soon as possible.

b) **Response to Axworthy Proposals** - Ms. Grimes, Ms. Murray and Mr. Côté had met to prepare Council's response to the Axworthy proposals which was tabled by Ms. Grimes, (attached to the minutes). The following motion was moved by Ms. Grimes and seconded by Mr. Côté:

Be it resolved that CCSL rejects the federal government proposals to reform higher education financing as elaborated in the "Improving Social Security in Canada" discussion paper put forward by the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy.

A discussion was held on the motion. Mr. Leibu was informed that the motion would, once approved by Council, be forwarded to Senate. The Chair suggested that Ms. Flynn, Vice-President, CSU, as well as a Senate member, raise the issue at Senate. Ms. Kerby was told that any University response would probably be channeled through CREPUQ. Ms. Grimes said that the students will be responding on December 6 and 7 when they appear before a country-wide panel established to gather input and feedback.

With no amendments, and no vote requested, the motion was carried as written.

c) **Other Business Arising from the Minutes** - None.

5. Appointments to Committees: Planning & Resources: Ms. D. Cooper, staff representative, has agreed to replace Ms. C. Fortier on the Planning & Resources Committee. No objections to this proposal were raised.

6. Student Life Issues: a) **The Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Physical Environment)** - unavailable. Will respond at the next meeting, either verbally or in writing.

b) **The Director of Supply & Services** - Mr. Macdonald, Director, Supply & Services was welcomed as a permanent observer to CCSL. He expanded on his written response (copy attached to the minutes).

Mr. Cambridge, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Ellison, Ms. Grimes, Ms. Hedrich, Mr.

Leibu, Mr. Zacharias and Dr. Boisvert participated in the discussion of various aspects of the services which report to the Director. Mr. Macdonald will examine the issue of additional microwave ovens on the 7th floor of the Hall Building with Marriott.

Mr. Macdonald explained that the reason coin-operated photocopiers were removed was one of safety and to avoid vandalism. The University is attempting to eliminate all incidences on campus where money would have to be collected. It was pointed out to him that many students simply do not have the money necessary to purchase a debit card. Also, there is a frustration caused because the debit machine and the recharger appear to be often either broken or shut-down. Even though more rechargers have been installed, the problem still seems to exist. It was requested that one coin-operated machine be provided on each campus. Mr. Macdonald will examine the issue further.

The matter of who is responsible for photocopiers in the Library was raised. Mr. Macdonald said that Printing Services is the unit ultimately responsible, but that he has met recently with Dr. Bonin, Director of Libraries, to try and come to a working arrangement over the joint concerns that both departments have with the current set-up. Both Dr. Bonin and Mr. Macdonald are hopeful that the situation in the Libraries with regards to the photocopiers being serviced will be rectified by the end of November.

c) **The Director of Libraries** - Dr. Bonin was welcomed as another permanent observer on CCSL. He responded to the concern raised at the last CCSL meeting in regards to signage at the Vanier Library. He acknowledged that it was a problem which would continue into the summer because of the move of Psychology to Loyola. He further stated that the problem will get worse because of the move of Geology. The Library will attempt to put up temporary signs and stay on top of the situation, but it has proven to be difficult.

Mr. Zacharias asked why the two computers offering access to CLUES, on the 4th floor of the Webster Library, do not function and was informed by Dr. Bonin that they were disconnected to install new bays. Although repeated requests have been made to have them reconnected, plus an additional two machines, it has obviously not been done yet. There are also problems with some of the computers at the Vanier Library.

Ms. Grimes suggested to the Director that more staplers, hole punches, etc. be supplied for the use of students. She also asked him to respond to the article that appeared in The Link regarding the re-shelving problem. Dr. Bonin explained that even though the Library usually has a backlog of re-shelving at this peak time, it has been made worse this year because of union problems. The Library is changing staff and trying to increase the part-time staff, which will result in a reduction of full-time positions, some of which are union. He

acknowledged that the re-shelving has become a serious problem but it is being addressed.

Ms. Grimes also asked that the Library be restricted to Concordia students only, especially during examination periods. Dr. Bonin replied that a survey had been conducted recently which showed that daytime users are 99% Concordia students, while in the evening the percentage is 91. If the situation changes the Library would retaliate, but it's not seen as a problem at this time.

d) The Manager of the Bookstore - Ms. L. Lipscombe, Manager of the Bookstore, was also welcomed as a permanent observer of CCSL. She told Council that she had met with Ms. Grimes and Mr. Counihan to discuss numerous issues. She briefly outlined the policies that governed the price of textbooks and told Council that the margin had not changed over the years; it was the cost of textbooks which had increased. Ms. Lipscombe is quite sensitive to the cost of the books and tries very hard to bring these concerns forward to various fora. There are problems related now to illegal photocopying of books because students cannot afford the high costs. Presently she is lobbying with the publishing association on the copyright issue which may soon be applied to used books.

Mr. Counihan, Mr. Leibu, Ms. Torbit, Dr. Alfred, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Côté, Dr. Bonin, Mr. Zacharias, Ms. Grimes and Dr. Boisvert participated in the discussion which followed. Issues raised included the sensitization of authors, many of whom are faculty members, to the concerns that the high costs cause. Ms. Lipscombe explained that it was not just the authors - that the publishers issue new texts with minor changes each year to fight the used book venue. She also stated that many faculty members who are authors like their work in expensive glossy books.

Dr. Boisvert reminded Council that a year ago he had written to the Deans asking that the concerns of the high costs of textbooks be raised with faculty members to attempt to sensitize them. As of now, he is not aware that anything was done regarding this request. Ms. Lipscombe said that although the Bookstore does not usually advise faculty members, they have on occasion advised authors when they feel their books have been overpriced. The Bookstore charges GST but there is no provincial tax.

It was suggested that perhaps the Bookstore could offer a similar solution as that used in some Ontario universities. For textbooks which span several courses, the student will be able to purchase, in soft cover, only those chapters which she/he needs. Ms. Lipscombe is aware of this practice and will keep Council informed of her lobbying efforts in this area.

It was asked if cheaper books could be assigned which would meet the

identical needs required of the course, a type of "generic" booklist could be provided, similar to that for medicines. The response was that most publishers keep books within the same price range; it is more or less a monopoly in Canada.

Regarding the GST rebate, Ms. Lipscombe will return to this issue at a future meeting since she wishes to clarify her understanding of the situation with Treasury.

Ms. Grimes stressed that CCSL shouldn't lose sight of the fact that the cost of textbooks at Concordia is too high. Ms. Lipscombe acknowledged this and stated that the Bookstore is a lobbying voice for the financial concerns of students. Dr. Boisvert pointed out that the Faculties also have a specific responsibility towards addressing the concerns as well, and questioned what Council wanted the next step to be.

It was suggested that Faculty Councils and Senate be officially informed of the concerns of the high costs of textbooks. Since the Bookstore is an ancillary service Concordia University should be asked to state what its priorities are, whether it is acceptable for the Bookstore to just cover its costs or if it is expected to provide large profits at the expense of the students. The prices on non-textbook items could be raised as well as charging more for outside institutions.

Council was informed by Dr. Alfred that Faculty members receive free copies of their texts from publishers, and therefore are not either aware or concerned about the price. Providing Faculty members with a cost list would be ineffective at this time as the majority of Faculty members place their orders very late. A suggestion to improve this could be to ask the departments to examine the infrastructure used by them to order books for the professors. Perhaps the system could be streamlined and at the same time professors could be advised of the costs. It was suggested that letters be sent to Chairs advising them of a deadline for ordering books.

Council was also informed that Faculty members are not required to order their books through the Bookstore, and are free to use other establishments. Mr. Ellison pointed out that in the case of the Theatre Department students have to purchase their books through one outlet, which is the only bookstore in Montreal which carries the necessary texts. Consequently, the store charges quite high prices since it enjoys a virtual monopoly.

The following motion was moved by Mr. Leiby, and seconded by Ms. Grimes:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that CCSL demand that Senate and Faculty Council pass motions that all books be ordered through the bookstore by (date inserted).

1.a) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this responsibility be included in the next collective agreements, both CUFA and CUPFA.

Dr. Alfred spoke to the motion and suggested that because Faculty Council may feel that the motion is a restriction on academic freedom that the word demand be changed to recommend. He didn't feel there would be a problem with setting a deadline, but suggested that the wording be changed to deal with exceptions, i.e., those texts that cannot be ordered through the bookstore, possible wording - "except where not possible". Both the mover and the seconder agreed with the changes.

Dr. Bonin spoke against the amendment arguing that the stronger wording should be left and that exceptions could be dealt with on a per case basis.

The original motion was passed unanimously. The Chair will forward the motion to the appropriate bodies.

A second motion was proposed by Mr. Leiby and seconded by Ms. Grimes.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Budget Committee of the Board of Governors recommend that the markup on textbooks be reduced to 5%.

Dr. Bonin, Ms. Grimes, and Ms. Lipscombe spoke to this motion. It was suggested that a proposal to reduce the markup on books be sent to the University Operating Budget Committee for their response before sending it to the Board. Information could also be obtained on the feasibility of having a 0% markup on textbooks. It was pointed out that without the correct information the motion may have a very detrimental effect on the Bookstore. This issue is a serious, complex one and it was agreed by Mr. Leiby and Ms. Grimes that they would return to Council with a proposal to be sent to the OUBC at a future meeting and resubmit the resolution at this time.

On agreement of Council the motion was withdrawn.

e) The University Registrar - unavailable until January 1995.

f) Other Issues - Ms. Grimes asked that rather than enter into a long discussion of the numerous miscellaneous issues the Student Caucus brings to CSSL, they would like to submit a summary list and have it duly recorded in the minutes.

1. Inadequate number of microwaves in the Hall Building, cafeteria.
2. Escalators in the Hall Building are never in full working order.

3. Smoking room (preferably freedom to smoke in Reggie's).
4. Accessibility to buildings: special note - it is almost impossible for students in wheelchairs to enter the Hall Building, the "negative pressure" created when the doors open make it very difficult to even open the doors for an able bodied person...
5. Winter Shuttle Bus shelter.
6. 24 hour study space.
7. Financial Aid - there needs to be a private booth for students requesting appointments for emergency loans.
8. State of the bathrooms and "staff bathrooms".
9. Photocopiers.
10. Delays in reshelving library books.
11. Staplers and hole punchers in the libraries.
12. Synchronized and accurate time clocks.
13. Class rooms need some attention (curtains are old, dusty and falling), (broken desks, etc.)
14. Rate of response from physical plant in all areas.

Ms. K. Hedrich, Manager, Student Accounts, was welcomed by the Chair as a permanent observer. She informed Council that she had a concern with the method used to pass new student association fees through the Board of Governors. She will prepare a formal document and table it at a future meeting of CCSL. Dr. Boisvert will be advised when to put it on the agenda.

Mr. Leibur raised the issue of I.D.s being requested to access the shuttle buses. He wondered if Dr. Barlow could examine an easier way of providing temporary I.D.s to students. He also questioned the status of Continuing Education students, who pay a fee towards student services but are not issued I.D.s and consequently, under the current practice, cannot ride the shuttle buses.

7. Report from the Planning & Resources Committee: The Committee has met on two occasions and dealt with several issues, including:

1. **International Student Fees** - the following motion was moved by Mr. Leibur, and seconded by Ms. Fortier:

Whereas international students pay differential tuition fees;

Whereas few scholarships, bursaries, and financial assistance programmes are open to undergraduate and graduate international students;

Whereas many international students experience financial difficulties;

Whereas an amount of \$7,427.81* in interest revenue was generated by

international students accounts in 1993-1994 year,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Concordia Council on Student Life submits a proposal to the Office of the Vice-Rector Institutional Relations and Finance recommending that interest fees for international students be calculated on the equivalent Canadian tuition rather than on differential fees as is the current practice.

* \$126,102.50 interest revenue was generated by Canadian students accounts in 1993-1994.

Ms. Hedrich provided the figures for the motion and asked that the word approximately be inserted before the amount of \$7,427.81. This was agreed to by Mr. Leiby and Ms. Fortier.

The motion, as amended, was carried unanimously.

2. Teaching and Learning - Ms. Kerby asked that Dr. A. Hochstein, Associate Vice-Rector, Academic, be invited to address CCSL to advise on the status of this issue in the academic sector.

3. Role of Committee - The Committee has begun to examine its role and responsibilities towards CCSL and other services. Members are of the opinion that the Committee will find ways of addressing issues and concerns of student life and meet its mandate.

4. Academic Advising - A document titled Questionnaire on Student Advising Policies and Practice was distributed to Council. Members feel that the quality of advising is inconsistent. It is planned that the questionnaire will be distributed to departments. After the Committee has fine-tuned the document it will be re-submitted to Council for approval. Council members were invited to contact any Committee member to give comments and input.

5. Chat with Directors - The first session will be held 30 November, from 1:00 - 2:30 in the Mezz Café, Hall Building. Ms. Kerby, Dr. Boisvert, Mr. Côté and Mr. Counihan will be available to discuss any issues with students in an informal environment.

6. Para-Academic Credit - A document for further discussion: Bursary Program for Students Participating in Student Life, was tabled, and reads as follows:

<u>Problem</u>	involvement in student life at many levels of the university is restricted to students who are financially well-off and can afford to take time off work.
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Solution: set aside a sum of money to be used to offer bursaries to cover tuition for students in financial need who are involved in student life.

Method: form a small working group to set the criteria and selection process for the selection of bursary recipients (suggested membership would include Harry Zarins, Roget Côté and Daniel Leibu).

examine the feasibility of funding the program with monies from the Student Services budget and from the University Operating budget and make necessary proposals to secure the funds.

A motion was moved by Mr. Leibu, seconded by Ms. Kerby, that the above mentioned working group be struck. Dr. Boisvert suggested the addition of Mr. Counihan. Motion carried.

7. Directors' Reports - The Planning & Resources Committee proposed the following scenario for the Directors' reports. Each Director would prepare a one page written report and be given an opportunity to make brief announcements of upcoming events. One Director per meeting would be allocated approximately 10 minutes to report on their department. These reports would consist of four parts - budget/statistics/qualitative statements/list of announcements.

Ms. Kerby said that the scenario had yet to be discussed with the Directors but if acceptable the method would be implemented for the December meeting. This was agreed to.

8. Reports from Directors:

Counselling & Development: Dr. Graub stated that the space needs of the department are becoming acute; there is a need for a workshop space for student use.

Dr. Graub will address the Student Services Review Committee on 25 November.

Along with the Faculty of Arts & Science, Counselling & Development is exploring way to deal constructively with failed/failing students.

Financial Aid & Awards: Mr. Côté reported that 1600 loans had been disbursed as of last week. This is an increase over last year. The Department

is keeping a close watch on proposed federal reforms. It is expected that the Québec governments modifications to provincial aid will be received shortly. It is foreseen that it will entail major changes on how student loans are to be administered.

The research information bulletin, FOCUS, will be sent to Council. This bulletin contains the findings on the undergraduate experience at the University. Results of the project will be forwarded to Senior Administration and Chairs.

Dean of Students: Mr. Counihan announced that the University has decided to reduce its residence space by closing Langley Hall effective May 31, 1995. The basic reason for the closure is money. Langley Hall needs major renovations and repairs up to an approximate cost of \$1 million.

Ms. Grimes expressed student disappointment in the fact that the decision was made, at the Office of the Rector, without any student input. Students have planned a protest rally.

Mr. Counihan said that he had sent a letter to all residence students explaining the situation and that he would be available to answer any questions during the afternoon of the rally. He explained that the leases are for an 8 month period and they all terminate at the end of April. Returning students will be given the first option on beds in Hingston Hall. Hingston Hall will remain open at least until June 1996. Dr. Bertrand has also indicated that additional funds may be channeled into Off-Campus Housing to help residence students.

Dr. Boisvert said that although the University has opted at this time to reduce its residence space, this was not a decision which would preclude future residence expansion, such as arrangements with private developers.

Mr. Leibur questioned the statement that residence space wasn't needed in an urban environment when UQAM is in the process of building more. He also asked why the principles outlined in the Space Planning Document, which was adopted by Senate, are not being adhered to.

Mr. Ellison said that the residences were a drawing card to out-of-province students. Dr. Boisvert said that studies had been conducted in the past few years which indicated that residences, especially Concordia's, were not a major drawing card for student enrolment.

Mr. Leibur returned to the Space Planning Document in his comments on the proposed closing of the Centennial Building. Dr. Boisvert said that the plan was a series of principles which were to form the nucleus of a space plan. He

suggested that Mr. Leiby ask at the Board of Governors what efforts are being made to create a space plan based on these principles.

The following motion was moved by Mr. Leiby, and seconded by Ms. Grimes:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Concordia Council on Student Life and students be involved at every step of the process in determining the viability of residence operations at Concordia University.

There was no discussion on the motion. Motion carried. Dr. Boisvert agreed to discuss the motion with Dr. Bertrand and Mr. Leiby will raise the motion at the Board of Governors.

Dr. Boisvert asked Council if they clearly understood the issue; was it one of residences or one of participation? The answer from Mr. Leiby was yes to both.

Ms. Fortier asked what the status was of Off-Campus Housing. Dr. Boisvert explained that CSU receives, on a yearly basis, \$20,500 from CCSL to put towards Off-Campus Housing. He has asked CSU to provide an update. The issue will be examined further by the Planning & Resources Committee.

On the other space issues: The Guadagni Lounge will be moved to the basement of the Central building, and will occupy approximately 1/2 the space it presently has. Architectural integrity will be respected when renovating the existing lounge into offices and classrooms. Work has been postponed on the renovations until the spring.

Regarding the Centennial space - no one will be moved until necessary.

Health Services: Ms. Torbit informed Council that she had written to Ms. Giles, President, CSU, inviting further discussion on the medical insurance plan being proposed by CSU.

Medical cards are being actively examined by Health Services. It is necessary to have a card to process medical claims. Everyone asking for services must supply a current card.

Health Services has been pursuing non-nominal testing for Aids along with the Montreal General Hospital. She reminded Council that 1 December was International Aids Day.

Advocacy & Support Services: Ms. Kerby reported on a new Committee which she was invited to participate on which was set up by the Vice-Rector, Academic, to examine academic regulations. She will provide the student

perspective to the operation and will table periodic reports with CCSL.

The Departmental budget is on-line.

The statistics from the department indicate that more and more time is being spent with paper work and less time with individuals. This is largely caused by an increase in demand for services.

The Women's Centre participated in presenting the joint venture discussion on the Wearing of the Hajib which was attended by 300 people. On 25 November the Centre will present the NFB's Vienna Tribunal.

Recreation & Athletics: Ms. S. Livingston, on behalf of Mr. Zarins, distributed a report from the Department. There were no questions.

9. **New Business:** a) **Student Bill of Rights & Responsibilities** - Ms. A. Flynn outlined the main components of the Bill Rights. She explained that as she understood the situation, when the issue was first discussed at Senate it was returned to CCSL for further work. A five-page document, minus the implementation, has been prepared and circulated to a small number of students who are in the process of evaluating and commenting upon it. Once the document is finalized it will be tabled at CCSL.

Ms. Flynn will advise the Chair when the document is ready to be put on the agenda.

b) **Other New Business:** Ms. Grimes raised the issue of funds being given to different groups and organizations to help finance expenses, such as the Debating Team and Model UN. Dr. Boisvert agreed that the money is allocated in an ad-hoc way. Mr. Counihan said that the fees for the coaches on the debating team are paid, and funds for special projects are made available from the Office of the Dean of Students. It was agreed that the issue should be examined further.

Ms. Grimes reported that CSU will appear before the Axworthy hearings on 7 December.

Mr. Macdonald reported on a multi-purpose debit card which the University is in the process of examining. He asked how to get student input into the final decision on the card. Mr. Ellison informed Council that a similar system had been tried at Trent University and met with little success. Dr. Boisvert will discuss with Mr. Macdonald how to incorporate CCSL input into the final decision.

The Student Services Annual Holiday Party will be held 15 December 1994, in

H-653, SGW Campus.

10. Next Meeting: The next meeting of CCSL will be Friday, 16 December at 10:00 a.m., Loyola Campus, Room AD-131.
11. Termination of Meeting: On a motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Torbit, the meeting was terminated.